

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **David R. Robins** Confirmation No.: **2570**
Serial No.: **10/611,737** Group Art Unit: **2625**
Filing Date: **July 1, 2003** Examiner: **Allen H. Nguyen**
For: **HIGH SPEED DIGITAL IMAGE PRINTING SYSTEM**

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

APPELLANT'S BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

This brief is being filed in support of Appellant's appeal from the rejections of claims 29-31, 36, 37, 42-56 dated December 28, 2009. A Notice of Appeal was filed on March 29, 2010, together with a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review. A Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Request was mailed on April 30, 2010, in which the panel decided that this appeal should proceed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

SENSHIN CAPITAL, LLC is the real party in interest.

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

3. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 29-31, 36, 37, 42-56 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-28, 32-35, and 38-41 are canceled. The rejections of claims 29-31, 36, 37, 42-56 are appealed.

4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 29-31, 36, 37, 42-56 were pending as of the mailing of the office action dated December 28, 2009 ("Office Action"). In a response to the Office Action filed on March 1, 2010, Appellant proposed amendments to claims 50-52 and 55. In an advisory action dated March 17, 2010 ("Advisory Action"), the Examiner refused entry of the amendments for purposes of appeal. Thus, claims 29-31, 36, 37, 42-56 have not been amended since the mailing of the Office Action.

5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Digital photography has become increasingly popular, generating a demand for easy, quick, and inexpensive ways to obtain prints of digital photographs. Specification, para. 0005. Users who have digital images can obtain prints in a number of ways, such as printing digital photographs at home, sending the digital photographs over a computer network to a remote commercial print provider, delivering the digital images on a storage medium to a photo print development business, using a digital photo-printing kiosk, and other methods. *Id.* at paras. 0006-0008. It is generally desirable that the prints have a certain level of quality. *Id.* at paras. 0011-0012. Image processing of digital images can increase the quality level of the digital images. *Id.* However, image processing of digital images can take large amounts of time, and users generally do not want to wait for long periods of time for image processing to be performed prior to their digital images being printed. *Id.* Thus there is a need for the ability to obtain prints of digital photographs at a certain level of quality without taking a large amount of time to perform image processing on the digital photographs.

Appellant's specification describes a number of techniques and systems for decreasing the time required to create prints of digital images. *Id.* at para. 0013. Among the techniques described include a technique for printing a plurality of images. *Id.* at para. 0016. The technique includes determining that a subset of the plurality of images require image processing to meet a defined image parameter. *Id.* at paras. 0016 and 0030-0032. The subset of the images includes less than all of the images in the plurality of images. *Id.* Determining only those images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter ensures that the images in the subset do not already meet the defined image parameter and cannot meet the defined image parameter in some other manner. Examples of the image processing include red-eye reduction, contrast correction, and sharpness correction.

See paras. 0008 and 0030. In those instances, the corresponding defined image parameter is the absence of red hues in certain locations of the image, a certain level of contrast in the image, and a certain level of sharpness in the image. *Id.*

The technique also includes performing the image processing on the subset of images. *Id.* By performing the image processing on the subset, and not on the entire plurality of image, the time required for the image processing is reduced. The amount of time saved can be large in situations where only a very few of the plurality of images requires the image processing to meet the defined image parameter. The technique also includes activating a print engine and printing the processed subset of images using the print engine. *Id.* at paras. 0016. Using this technique, those of the plurality of images which require image processing can be processed, while not all of the images in the plurality of images are processed. Thus, the quality of the images in the defined subset meets the defined image parameter, while the time to process and print the images is reduced because the image processing is not performed on each of the plurality of images.

The independent claims also recite aspects in addition to those discussed above. These recitations are supported in appellant's specification at least as follows:

| <u>Independent Claim 29</u> | <u>Specification Support</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| 29. A computer-implemented method for printing a plurality of digital images, the method comprising: | Para. 0016 |
| <i>determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;</i> | Paras. 0016 and 0030-0032 |
| <i>performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;</i> | Para. 0016 |
| <i>activating a print engine; and</i> | Para. 0016 |
| <i>printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.</i> | Para. 0016 |

| <u>Independent Claim 36</u> | <u>Specification Support</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 36. A system for printing a plurality of digital images, the system comprising: | Fig. 1 and para. 0016 |
| <i>processing means for determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet an image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;</i> | Fig. 1 and paras. 0016 and 0030-0032 |

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>first image processing means for performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;</i> | Fig. 1 and para. 0016 |
| <i>print engine activation means for activating a print engine; and</i> | Fig. 1 and para. 0016 |
| <i>first printing means for printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.</i> | Fig. 1 and para. 0016 |

| <u>Independent Claim 50</u> | <u>Specification Support</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| 50. A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for printing a plurality of digital images, the instructions comprising instructions for: | Paras. 0016 and 0082-0084 |
| <i>determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;</i> | Paras. 0016 and 0030-0032 |
| <i>performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;</i> | Para. 0016 |
| <i>activating a print engine; and</i> | Para. 0016 |
| <i>printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.</i> | Para. 0016 |

6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Appellant appeals the rejections of claims 29-30, 36-37, 43-45, 47-51, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,859,711 (“Barry”). In addition, Appellant appeals the rejections of claims 42, 46, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Kito, U.S. Patent No. 6,628,899 (“Kito”). Further, Appellant appeals the rejections of claims 31 and 52 as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Nagasaka, U.S. Patent No. 5,333,246 (“Nagasaka”).

7. ARGUMENT

I. Overview of Appellant’s independent claims

Claims 29, 36, and 50 are the independent claims pending in the present case. Claim 29 is generally directed to a “method for printing a plurality of digital images.” Claim 29 recites that the method comprises “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which *require image processing to meet a defined image parameter*” and “*performing image processing* on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed

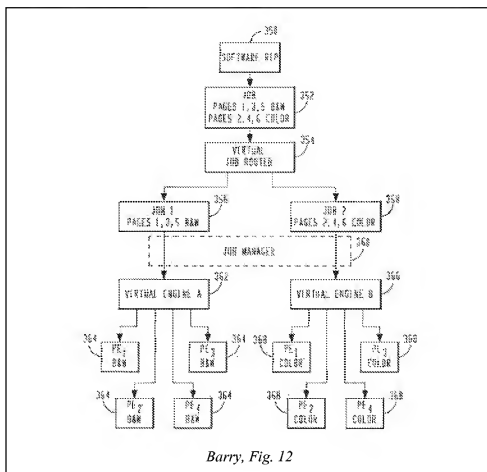
images.” (Emphases added.) Claim 29 also recites “printing the first plurality of processed images.” Claims 36 and 50 are directed to a system and a computer-readable medium, respectively, and recite subject matter similar to those recitations of claim 29 mentioned above. The full text of claims 29, 36, and 50 is provided in the Claims Appendix below.

II. Cited art and the Examiner’s rejections

Claims 29, 36, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry. Barry is generally directed to a device containing multiple printers, such as a color printer and a black and white printer. Barry, abstract. A user station can send an individual print job to the device. *Id.* A distribution manager routs individual pages of the print job to the different printers in the device. *Id.* Once the pages have been printed, the device regroups the printed pages into the order that they were sent in the original print job. *Id.*

One example of this page routing, which is heavily relied upon by the Examiner in the rejections, is the routing process shown in Barry’s Fig. 12 and discussed in corresponding portions of Barry’s disclosure. Barry’s Fig. 12 is reproduced below for convenience. In Fig. 12, Barry shows that a print job 352 with three color pages and three color images is sent to the device. Barry also depicts a virtual job router 354 which separates the three black and white pages into a black and white print job 356 and the three color pages into a color print job 358. The black and white print job 356 is sent to be printed by a black and white printer in Barry’s device, and the color print job 358 is sent to be printed by a color printer in Barry’s device.

In the rejection of claim 29, the Examiner argues that Barry’s software engine 350 determines a subset (Job 2 358) of a plurality of images (Job 352) to be printed. Office Action, page 2. Further, the Examiner argues that Virtual Job Router 354 performs image processing on Job 352 by routing the individual pages to Job 1 356 and Job 2 358. *Id.* at pages 2-3. Finally, the Examiner argues that Barry teaches that the pages in Job 2 require image processing to meet an image parameter because Barry teaches that “multiple pages of images are separate and distinct and have associated therewith parameters that define the nature of the document as to printing, col. 14, lines 55-60.” Office Action, page 2. In the rejection of claims 36 and 50, the Office Action applies this same reasoning. Office Action, pages 2 and 4-6. Nothing in the Advisory Action substantively adds to the rejections made in the Office Action.



III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 29-30, 36-37, 43-45, 47-51, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry. The law of anticipation is straightforward and precise. “A claim is anticipated only if *each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, *either expressly or inherently described*, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co. of Cal.*, 814, F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). If a claim recitation is not expressly described by the reference, the reference can only anticipate the claim if the missing descriptive material is “necessarily present.” *Continental Can Co. v. Monsanto Co.*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1749, 1749 (Fed. Cir. 1991). However, inherency may not be established by probability or possibility; “[t]he mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient to establish inherency.” *Trintec Industries Inc. v. Top-U.S.A. Corp.*, 63 U.S.P.Q.2d 1597, 1599 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

A. Claim 29

Claims 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry. Appellant respectfully submits that, in the rejection of claim 29, the Examiner errs (1) by finding that Barry teaches “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29; and (2) by finding that Barry teaches “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. Each of these errors is individually sufficient for the Board to reverse the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

First, the Examiner errs by finding that Barry teaches “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. If an image “requires image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29, the image necessarily does not yet meet the defined image parameter and requires the image processing to meet that image parameter. As discussed above, Barry describes that software engine 350 determines whether the pages in print job 352 are color pages or black and white pages. Barry determines whether the print job pages are color pages or black and white pages so that the pages can be sent to a respective color printer and black and white printer. However, Barry does not teach determining that the pages in print job 352 do not yet meet a defined image parameter or that the pages require image processing to meet that defined image parameter. Barry teaches merely determining whether the pages are in black and white or in color.

In response to Appellant’s previous arguments on this point, the Examiner attempted to cure the deficiency in Barry by arguing that “multiple pages of images are separate and distinct and have associated therewith parameters that define the nature of the document as to printing, col. 14, lines 55-60.” (Office Action, page 2.) Appellant does not contend that Barry’s pages do not have parameters that define the nature of the pages as to printing; Barry does describe that the pages are either color pages or black and white pages. What Barry lacks is a determination that the nature of the pages “requires image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. In other words, while Barry determines a parameter of the pages in the print job (i.e., whether the pages in a print job are color pages or black and white pages), Barry fails to teach that pages in the print job do not yet meet a defined image parameter and that the pages require image processing to meet that defined image parameter. Thus, Barry’s determination of whether the pages in a print job are color

pages or black and white pages fails to teach “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29.

Second, the Examiner errs by finding that Barry teaches “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. Because the recited image processing is required by a subset of images to meet a defined image parameter, the images in the subset do not meet the defined image parameter before image processing and the performance of the image processing causes the images to meet the defined image parameter. As Barry depicts in Fig. 12, a virtual job router 354 separates the three black and white pages into a black and white print job 356 and the three color pages into a color print job 358. The Examiner reads this action of the virtual job router 354 as teaching the performing image processing recited by claim 29. Office Action, pages 2-3. However, Barry does not teach that the virtual job router does anything to the pages which causes the pages to meet a defined image parameter. The virtual job router’s mere separation of the pages into two print jobs does not cause the pages to meet some defined image parameter which they did not meet before the separation of the pages. Because the separation of pages by Barry’s virtual job router into different print jobs does not cause the pages to meet a predefined image parameter, Appellant respectfully submits that Barry fails to teach or suggest “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29.

For each of the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that Barry fails to teach each and every recitation of claim 29. Therefore, Barry fails to anticipate claim 29. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry.

B. Claims 36 and 50

Claims 36 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry. Claims 36 and 50 are directed to a system and a computer-readable medium, respectively, and recite subject matter similar to those recitations of claim 29 mentioned above. Although claims 36 and 50 are different in scope from claim 29, Appellant submits that Barry fails to teach each and every recitation of claims 36 and 50 for at least those reasons that Barry fails to teach each and every recitation of claim 29. Because Barry fails to teach each and every recitation of claims 36 and 50, Barry fails to anticipate claims 36 and

50. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 36 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry.

C. Claims 30, 37, 43-45, 47-49, 51, and 54-56

Claims 30, 37, 43-45, 47-49, 51, and 54-56 depend from claims 29, 36, and 50, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry. Inasmuch as claims 30, 37, 43-45, 47-49, 51, and 54-56 depend from claims which are not anticipated by Barry, Appellant submits that claims 30, 37, 43-45, 47-49, 51, and 54-56 are not anticipated by Barry. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejection of claims 30, 37, 43-45, 47-49, 51, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 42, 46, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Kito, and reversal of the rejections of claims 31 and 52 as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Nagasaka. A claim can be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) only if “the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.” 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is the clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385, 1396 (2007). The error associated with the rejection of each of the claims is discussed in turn.

A. Barry fails to teach or suggest the recitations of the independent claims

Barry fails to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 29, 36, and 50. As discussed above with respect to claim 29, Barry fails to teach “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29, and Barry fails to teach “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. For the reasons that follow, Appellant further submits that the above-cited portions of claim 29 would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of Barry’s teachings.

The recited “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter” of claim 29 would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of Barry’s determination of whether a print job page is color or black and white. As discussed above, a determination that an image requires image processing to meet a defined image parameter means that the image necessarily does not yet meet the defined image parameter before the image processing is performed. While Barry teaches determining whether the print job pages are color or black and white, Barry fails to teach or suggest that any of the pages does not yet meet a defined image parameter, and Barry also fails to teach or suggest determining that image processing is required to meet a defined image parameter. The process shown in Barry’s Fig. 12 does not suggest that any image processing is required to be performed on a page for any reason, let alone that “image processing [is required] to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29. Because Barry does not teach that any image processing is required, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to modify Barry’s teachings to add a determination that image processing is required to meet a defined image parameter. Therefore, “determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29, is not taught or suggested by Barry, and Appellant respectfully submits that Barry fails to make the recitation of claim 29 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The recited “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” of claim 29, where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of Barry’s separation of print job pages into a color print job and a black and white print job. Because the recited image processing is required by a subset of images to meet a defined image parameter, the images do not meet the defined image parameter before image processing and the performance of the image processing causes the images to meet the defined image parameter. Barry’s mere separation of print job pages into a color print job and a black and white print job does not teach or suggest performing image processing which causes the pages to meet a defined image parameter. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to modify Barry to include performance of image processing which causes the pages to meet a defined image parameter. Therefore, Barry fails to teach or suggest “performing image processing on the digital images in the subset” where the image processing is “require[d]...to meet a defined image parameter,” as recited by claim 29.

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant submits that Barry fails to teach or suggest all the recitations of claim 29. Claims 36 and 50 are directed to a system and a computer-readable medium, respectively, and recite subject matter similar to those recitations of claim 29 mentioned above. For at least the reasons that Barry fails to teach or suggest the recitations of claim 29, Appellant submits that Barry fails to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 36 and 50.

B. Claims 42, 46, and 53

Claims 42, 46 and 53 depend from claims 29, 36, and 50, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Kito. As discussed above, Barry fails to teach or suggest all of the recitations of claims 29, 36, and 50. Appellant further submits that Kito fails to cure these deficiencies in Barry, and Kito is not cited by the Examiner for this purpose. Thus, Barry and Kito, individually and collectively, fail to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 29, 36, and 50. Inasmuch as claims 42, 46 and 53 depend from claims 29, 36, and 50, Appellant respectfully submits that Barry and Kito, individually and collectively, fail to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 42, 46 and 53. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 42, 46, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Kito.

C. Claims 31 and 52

Claims 31 and 52 depend from claims 29 and 50, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Nagasaka. As discussed above, Barry fails to teach or suggest all of the recitations of claims 29 and 50. Appellant further submits that Nagasaka fails to cure these deficiencies in Barry, and Nagasaka is not cited by the Examiner for this purpose. Thus, Barry and Nagasaka, individually and collectively, fail to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 29 and 50. Inasmuch as claims 31 and 52 depend from claims 29 and 50, Appellant respectfully submits that Barry and Nagasaka, individually and collectively, fail to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 31 and 52. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections of claims 31 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Nagasaka.

V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the rejections of claims 29-30, 36-37, 43-45, 47-51, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being

anticipated by Barry, reverse the rejections of claims 42, 46, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Kito, and reverse the rejections of claims 31 and 52 as being unpatentable over Barry in view of Nagasaka.

Date: May 28, 2010

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8. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. – 28. (Canceled)

29. A computer-implemented method for printing a plurality of digital images, the method comprising:

- determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;

- performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;

- activating a print engine; and

- printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising:

- performing image processing on a second set of images including fewer than all of the plurality of images to produce a second plurality of processed images; and

- printing the second plurality of processed images without stopping and reactivating the print engine.

31. The method of claim 29,

- wherein said performing image processing on the digital images in the subset is performed by a print client,

- wherein said activating a print engine and said printing the first plurality of processed images are performed by a print server, and wherein the method further comprises:

- at the print client, transmitting the first plurality of processed images to the server over a communications bus.

32. – 35. (Canceled)

36. A system for printing a plurality of digital images, the system comprising:

processing means for determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet an image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;

first image processing means for performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;

print engine activation means for activating a print engine; and

first printing means for printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.

37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

second image processing means for performing image processing on a second set of images including fewer than all of a plurality images to produce a second plurality of processed images; and

second printing means for printing the second plurality of processed images without stopping and reactivating the print engine.

38. – 41. (Canceled)

42. The method of claim 29, wherein the image processing comprises at least one of red-eye reduction, contrast correction, or brightness correction.

43. The method of claim 29, wherein the image processing performed on the digital images in the subset is designated by a user.

44. The method of claim 29, further comprising:

resizing the first plurality of processed images before printing the first plurality of processed images, wherein the resizing is based on the size of an output medium upon which the first plurality of processed images will be printed.

45. The method of claim 29, wherein the performing image processing comprises performing image processing such that the time required to print the first plurality of processed images is less than the time required to print the digital images in the subset, whereby the time required to print the first plurality of processed images and the digital images from the plurality of

digital images not in the subset is less than the time required to print the plurality of digital images.

46. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for performing image processing comprises means for performing at least one of red-eye reduction, contrast correction, or brightness correction.

47. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

means for receiving a user designation of the image processing to be performed on the digital images in the subset.

48. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

means for resizing the first plurality of processed images before printing the first plurality of processed images, wherein the resizing is based on the size of an output medium upon which the first plurality of processed images will be printed.

49. The system of claim 36, wherein the first image processing means performs the image processing such that the time required to print the first plurality of processed images is less than the time required to print the digital images in the subset, whereby the time required to print the first plurality of processed images and the digital images from the plurality of digital images not in the subset is less than the time required to print the plurality of digital images.

50. A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for printing a plurality of digital images, the instructions comprising instructions for:

determining a subset of the plurality of digital images which require image processing to meet a defined image parameter, the subset including fewer than all of the plurality of digital images;

performing image processing on the digital images in the subset to produce a first plurality of processed images;

activating a print engine; and

printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.

51. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, the instructions further comprising instructions for:

performing image processing on a second set of images including fewer than all of the plurality of images to produce a second plurality of processed images; and

printing the second plurality of processed images without stopping and reactivating the print engine.

52. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50,

wherein said performing image processing on the digital images in the subset is performed by a print client,

wherein said activating a print engine and said printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine are performed by a print server, and wherein the instructions further comprise instructions for:

the print client transmitting the first plurality of processed images to the server over a communications bus.

53. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein the image processing comprises at least one of red-eye reduction, contrast correction, or brightness correction.

54. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein the image processing performed on the digital images in the subset is designated by a user.

55. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, the instructions further comprising instructions for:

resizing the first plurality of processed images before printing the first plurality of processed images, wherein the resizing is based on the size of an output medium upon which the first plurality of processed images will be printed.

56. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein the instructions for performing image processing comprises instructions for performing image processing such that the time required to print the plurality of digital images is less than the time required to print the digital images in the subset, whereby the time required to print the first plurality of

processed images and the digital images from the plurality of digital images not in the subset is less than the time required to print the plurality of digital images.

9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

10. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.